

# The Chimes

**Advent/Christmas 2008**

*A Publication of the Anglican Parish of St. Chad in Winnipeg, Manitoba*

## **From Our Rector:**

The Reverend W. Gordon Shields



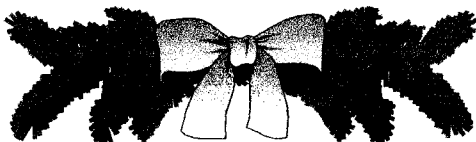
Elly the Elephant was talking to the children one Sunday; the topic was patience, of waiting for something good to happen. Waiting is hard, and Elly soon had the children convinced that patience was a good thing and they would try. Then Elly spoiled it by admitting that elephants are never patient – they don't know how to wait!

We are all like elephants – “Give me patience, Lord, and give it to me right now!” Patience as a virtue has virtually disappeared from society. Instant messaging and instant gratification are the norm. I have friends who are constantly so busy text-messaging, typing appointments and checking e-mails on their Blackberries that they hardly seem present when I'm in their company. Another friend, a parish priest, astounded everyone at a recent clergy gathering when he announced that any correspondence from the Bishop or his staff would have to come by post, because he didn't have and didn't want a computer!

These are two extremes – most of us fall in the middle. Advent is about waiting – and waiting – because at the end is the greatest gift of them all – God's Son! In a society where everybody is in a rush (I saw a car jump the line at a Timmy's drive-thru!), slowing down, anticipating the moment, is a rare luxury. We enter the season of waiting with trepidation – shut off your Blackberry, mute your cell phone, and take the time to be with God during the day. Start with five minutes of complete silence, and gradually extend it as you can. The anticipation is the reward; for Christ will come and you will be touched to your innermost being.

Christ Is Coming – Alleluia!

May your Season of Advent-waiting lead you to the Blessing of a Divine Birth, and may it fill your soul with joy.







## What's In A Name?

Sheila Welbergen



*"He who steals my purse steals trash, but he who steals my good name steals that which profits him nothing, but leaves me poor indeed."*

*– Shakespeare*

Names are important. In many cultures, your name tells who your parents were and maybe what they did for a living ... Taylor, Smith, Cooper, Corker, Porter, Baker, Fisher. In Biblical times to know someone's name meant that one really knew that person, not casually, but deeply. That is why it was important that Jacob, when wrestling with his unknown assailant, would not let him go, but demanded, "Tell me your name." Maybe the Unknown was God or maybe even Jacob wrestling with himself, but the name had to be uttered to be grasped.

Moses, when he had been told by God to go to Pharaoh, asked, "Who shall I say sent me?" It was a reasonable question, but the answer is anything but reasonable – "I AM has sent you." What more can anyone say about himself except I AM – I exist, therefore I am.

The kinsmen of Zacharias said, "You can't name the child John. There's no one in your family called John." In other words, you can't just pluck a name out of thin air.

Mary was told to name her child Jesus, a variation on the name of Joshua, who led the Children of Israel into the Promised Land.

*Jesus, the Name that calms our fears and bids our sorrows cease.*

*How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds in the believers' ears.*

*It soothes their sorrows, heals their wounds, and drives away their fears.*

*Dear Name the Rock on which I build my shield and hiding place,*

*My never failing treasury filled with boundless stores of Grace.*

*To utter the Name is to know the Person.*

Sometimes names can be straight jackets or, as we say, subject to racial profiling. We form a mental image of the person or group named, and really, without personal knowledge, how else can we judge – or should we judge at all?

Let's look at our name, or the one by which we are known to many: The Assinibioia Christian Centre, Anglican Parish of St. Chad. "The" defines us as only one – the definite article, not "a" as one amongst many. "Assiniboia" locates us in a specific area of Winnipeg. Assiniboia used to be "far west," but as the city has crept farther west, we are no longer at the boundary, we have been, for better or worse, engulfed. "Christian" – now there's a word which carries a lot of weight as well as a lot of baggage! We belong to a great cloud of witnesses of every age and generation. We bear the bad, and we claim the good for which Christians have been responsible. We are judged by the Name that we claim, and that Name is Christ. "Centre" – there are some who would claim the "Centre" only for the two parishes who own the building and share the name. Some speak of Mission and Service, Outreach and many other ways of connecting the Centre to the world beyond our corner of Portage and Rouge. Others take the view that we own the building, and we let some "church groups" and "worthy causes" use it, and why should we open our doors wider, by implication, to outsiders? Are we really "the" one? Have we been engulfed, no longer at the boundary, the edge leading to new things? Do we claim the Name and eschew the hurt and responsibility which comes with owning it?

Are we at the Centre Name-centred or self-centered? Our Mission Statement claims that we are a Christ-centred parish led by God the Father and the Holy Spirit, caring for one another and the needs of the community and that we seek to be faithful to the Great Commission to go out into the world and preach or show the Good News. Do we do this?

It is unfortunate that the Church's celebration of the Naming of Jesus falls on January 1. We celebrate a New Year, but do we believe an old Promise and a new Covenant? As we are enjoined every year to "keep Christ in Christmas," let us not forget on January 1 that

*At the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow:*

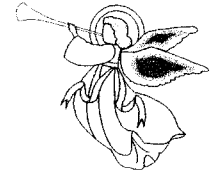
*Every tongue confess him King of Glory, now.*

*'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,*

*Ever to be worshipped honoured and adored.*

Thanks be to God.





**Sunday School News**  
Norma Pittman & Jane McMillan

Following our first teachers' meeting and Sunday School registration on September 14, classes resumed on September 21. We are pleased to have four new teachers joining us this year: Cristi Danielson (ages 3 & 4 class), Brenda Hannah (ages 3 & 4 class), Lorraine Franklin (kindergarten) and John Pittman (junior class). Matthew Cameron, assisted by Teagan Meadows, is teaching the grade 1 class. Thank you to our returning teachers: Paula Ellis Hunt (kindergarten), Jane McMillan and Laura Frederick (primary class) and Corinna Cameron (senior class). Bill Bartlett continues to assist the junior class as needed along with co-coordinating the youth service with Tiffany Ryner. Penny Jackson is continuing as nursery coordinator, providing care for our youngest St. Chadians. Katie Colomb-Fedak is joining her sister, Sharon, in assisting in our Sunday School.

We have 41 children registered this year, and we ask God's blessing on the children and the teachers as we journey together, learning about our Lord and His Son, Jesus, during the Bible teachings.

The first youth service was held October 19, with the next service scheduled for November 30.

The Sunday School has once again sent thank you cards to the 155 veterans at Deer Lodge Hospital in remembrance of their sacrifices made to ensure our freedoms. Donna Volkar as organised this service to our veterans for the last two years. Thank you to Catherine Lowry for assisting us this year.

How quickly time is going! Paula Ellis Hunt, assisted by Jodi Chambers, has offered to organise the Christmas pageant to take place this year on December 14 during the 11:00 a.m. service. There will be a luncheon following the service. We invite everyone to take time out from all the hustle and bustle as the children present the story of our Lord's birth. Practices are as follows:

November 16	10:00 a.m.	children with speaking parts only
November 23	9:30 a.m.	children in kindergarten and up
December 7	9:30 a.m.	all children
December 14	10:00 a.m.	all children

A letter was sent home with the children on November 9. If your child does not have a copy, please see or call Paula Ellis Hunt (487-2615). The letter includes words to the Christmas Hymns that we will be singing, and we would appreciate it if parents would assist by practising with their child(ren) at home.

We will have a "Birthday Party for Jesus" on December 21 as our final class for 2008. Regular classes will resume on January 4.

Lynda Bonwick, our co-coordinator for Sunday School, is taking a year off for personal reasons. We hope to see you next fall, Lynda. Val Shields and Donna Volkar have offered to organise our Lenten spaghetti luncheon next year, tentatively planned for March 15. Jane McMillan has offered to assist as co-coordinator this year.

On behalf of all in the Sunday School, may we wish you God's peace, joy and love this Christmas season.



**St. Chad's and the Assiniboia Christian Centre**  
or  
**How to Keep a Forty-Year-Old Going Without Going Bankrupt**  
Sheila Welbergen

As many of you know, but maybe a few don't, St. Chad's contribution to the Repair and Maintenance Fund of the Assiniboia Christian Centre is \$900.00 per month. An equal amount is paid by Blessed John XXIII. That means only \$21,600 per year is available for repairs and maintenance to this 40+-year-old building.

We also pay half the cost of the insurance on the Centre, plus a half share of the outstanding loan, which as of September 30, was \$46,530.00 plus interest.

In addition to the \$900.00 per month that we pay towards repairs and maintenance, we contribute one third of the the cost of regular monthly expenses such as hydro, gas, water, staffing, etc. Blessed John XXIII pays two thirds.

From the 'left over' of our weekly offering comes Gordon's salary and other incidentals.

Vestry made a decision that the monthly total of offerings, envelope, debit and sundry other contributions, should be published in the bulletin along with the monthly budget projections, in other words, how we are doing financially, month-to-month. That should give the congregation some idea of our financial picture.

However, as the subtitle above intimates, keeping up a 40-year-old building is not cheap. Currently eight windows need repairing at an ACC budgeted cost of \$6,000 - \$8,000. The parking lot – and don't we all love to see it pot-hole free and clearly marked out? – has cost \$8,216 so far this year with a projected maintenance cost of \$6,000 for 2009.

Plumbing repairs consumed another \$3,000+ in repairs. You can use your imaginations for what 40-year-old cast iron sewer pipes look like. No imagination? They are so corroded that they look like Swiss cheese in spots.

Insurance? Our level of insurance has not kept pace with projected replacement costs should it become necessary.

Would you like a new dishwasher? It costs \$10,000 - \$15,000 for a commercial-sized one. A 40-year-old roof? It would be around \$135,000.00 for a replacement. Currently, repairs and hope keep it up there. Crumbling brickwork? That has cost \$5,670.00 so far. No one likes a brick on the head or moisture seeping in to do more damage. Don't want to trip up or down the front steps? \$1,200.00 are estimated for a minimal fix-up, but \$1,500+ is projected.

A proposal for an additional \$40,000 loan amortised over 10 years is suggested to cover the \$17,645 paid out so far this year, and for future expenses in 2009.

If you do the math of \$21,600 in income (St. Chad's and Blessed John XXIII combined) minus the \$17,645, plus the loan payment, you will see that there is nothing left. Items which should have been paid from the Repair and Maintenance Fund have been billed directly to the individual parishes at 50% each. For example, when the bill for the parking lot had to be paid promptly – contractors are fussy – Vestry was presented with a bill for \$4,000.00.

That explains why we have a number of fund raisers.

There is a responsibility on the shoulders of the ACC Board members (who are listed the Sunday bulletin) to try and balance the needs and the wishes of the ACC with the stark reality of St. Chad's finances. Blessed John XXIII, because of the size of its three congregations (Saturday, and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.) is considerably richer, financially, than St. Chad's. Sometimes it is difficult to balance their dreams with our realities. To balance the realities of maintenance with income is impossible. Be that as it may, it is the realities which should concern us as the year ends and we are faced with the Annual General Meeting in February with consideration of our budget and finances for 2009 and beyond.

Vestry sets our budget. You are encouraged to make your comments to either ACC Board Members or Vestry members.





### **St. Chad's Memorial Fund**

Audrey Kelly & Bill Bartlett

Many of us send a donation to a charity instead of sending flowers in memory of a friend or loved one. We want you to be aware that our Church is one of the charities that you could consider, and that ***you will receive an Income Tax receipt of the donation.***

This fund will be used for necessary purchases of such things as Servers' gowns, Prayer Books, Tabernacle and much more. You can also designate where the money should be spent. However, all purchases must be approved by the Rector and Vestry.

There is a **Memorial Book** in which a record of the departed will be recorded. We have cards which we will send to the family as a notification of your donation. The card reads:

+  
AS AN EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY  
And  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

---

St. Chad's Anglican Church has received a contribution to its  
Memorial Fund from:

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We also have an envelope which you may fill out and then enclose your donation. When this is done, place it in the Offertory plate or mail it to St. Chad's Memorial Fund, 3390 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3K 0Z3.

Planned estate giving is another option. Please speak with your financial advisor or lawyer.

### **Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**

Elenor Urquhart, St. Chad's Parish Partner, PWRDF

On December 7, 2008, Anglican churches across Canada will be remembering the reason why the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund was started. This December 7 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Springhill, Nova Scotia, mine disaster. 75 men perished and another 90 were brought out of the mine alive. The Anglicans responded with help for the 90 survivors and their families and for the 75 grieving families. However, it was not until 11 months later that General Synod created the Primate's World Relief Fund, and 10 years after that, it became the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). It didn't start in Manitoba until 1993.

PWRDF works through relationships called partnerships. We work with over 100 grassroots organisations in over 25 countries. Since 1958, Anglicans have raised more than \$88 million to support the work of the PWRDF.

On the second Sunday in Advent, we will remember our reason for being.





# **ST. CHAD'S CHRISTMAS SERVICES**



***Sunday, December 14, 2008*** – Sunday School Pageant during the 11:00 a.m. service followed by a Potluck Luncheon, Silent Auction, Bar Jar, White Elephant Table for the Children

***Sunday, December 14, 2008*** – Nine Lessons and Carols Service – 3:00 p.m.

***Wednesday, December 24, 2008*** – Children's Service and Eucharist – 3:00 p.m.

***Wednesday, December 24, 2008*** – Carols and Holy Eucharist – 9:15 p.m.

***Thursday, December 25, 2008*** – Family Service and Holy Eucharist – 11:00 a.m.



**ST. CHAD'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, POTLUCK  
LUNCHEON, SILENT AUCTION, BAR JAR, WHITE  
ELEPHANT TABLE FOR CHILDREN**

**On Sunday, December 14, 2008 the children of St. Chad's will take part in our annual Sunday School Pageant. After the service there will be a potluck luncheon, silent auction, bar jar and white elephant table for the children.**

**If you have any items you can donate for the silent auction or the white elephant table please speak to Audrey or Jodie Kelly. If you would like to contribute to the bar jar please speak to Donna Volkar. Mark your calendars!!**